OPEN BOOK

THE PUBLICATIONS

Official Publications

The category of "official publications" is quite diverse. It is divided into three categories: (1) *NPG Magazine* fan magazine; (2) Comic books; (3) Other books and magazines. All the publications were published with Prince's full cooperation and active involvement. Furthermore, all are copyrighted to Prince's Paisley Park Enterprises. Only one of the publications carries an ISBN number, the *Prince and the New Power Generation: Three Chains Of Gold* comic book. Each publication includes relevant information about, amongst other things, publisher, size (number of pages), and dimensions.

Sheet music publications are not included because they are not produced with Prince's active input or by his Paisley Park Enterprises. Also excluded is the *Controversy* fan publication, which was endorsed by Prince (from circa 1990), but was published independently and largely lacked his active input.

***NPG* [Premiere issue]**
Publisher and editor: Mark J. Petracca
Manging editor: Steve Holtje
Creative director: Nick Ericson
MPLS editor: Valerie Threatt-Bland
News editor: Raven Worrell
Proof reader: Fred Schwarz
Cool Chick: Cat Jackson
Contributing writers: Walter Faber, Kim Greene, Amy Linden, Tracy McMillan, Cingen Stewart
Publisher: Paisley Park Enterprises
Published: March 1994
Size: 52 pages
Dimensions: 277 x 215 mm

Dubbed "the official magazine from Paisley Park and beyond," *NPG* replaced *Controversy* as Prince's fan magazine. The editorial staff of the magazine was based in New York, with editor/publisher Mark J. Petracca being a former *Creem* staff member.

The premiere issue of *New Power Generation* contains a mixture of interviews, photo features, Prince "idol portraits," and advertisements for Prince-related products and projects. A section entitled "Good To Your Earholes" features reviews of new recordings, while "Graffiti" provides "news from Paisley Park." The section "Crucial communications," meanwhile, includes letters from readers.

Issue #1 is very ambitious, not least in terms of the interviews. Mayte, Levi Seacer Jr., Mavis Staples, George Clinton, Tevin Campbell, The NPG (band), and Tony Mosley are interviewed. Seacer had left Prince's band by then to run the new record label NPG Records and he talked about his hopes for the new label.

One of the letters in the premiere issue is a handwritten letter from Mayte to ☥. She admitted to being "confused with everything that's going on in your life" and went on to ask some questions. A similar letter had previously been published in *Controversy*.

***NPG Magazine* [Issue number 2]**
Publisher and editor: Mark J. Petracca
Manging editor: Steve Holtje
Creative director: Nick Ericson
MPLS editor: Valerie Threatt
Junior art director: Cindy Campo
Graffiti editor: Raven Worrell
Proof reader: Fred Schwarz
Contributing writers: Leslie Adisman, Walter Faber, K$, Tracy McMillan, Margo Myles, Brian O'Neill, Paul Semel, Karen Iris Tucker
Publisher: Paisley Park Enterprises
Published: August 1994 (circa)
Size: 52 pages
Dimensions: 277 x 215 mm

Starting with the second issue, the magazine became *NPG Magazine* instead of simply *NPG*. The issue had the same overall content as the premiere issue, but the interviews were not exclusively with Prince associates and many non-Prince records were reviewed. These changes made the magazine broader in scope, which is not always a good thing when it comes to fan magazines devoted to one artist.

The interviews were with War, Bill Laswell, The Brand New Heavies, Luscious Jackson, Nona Gayes, and Morris Hayes. Other interviews were conducted with comedian Daymon Wayan, and Paisley Park engineer Tom Tucker. Terry Gydesen who shot pictures for *Prince Presents The Sacrifice Of Victor* photo book is also interviewed. The highpoints of the second issue are the photo features, with pictures from several of Prince's summer 1994 performances

***NPG Magazine* [Spring 1995]**
Publisher and editor: Mark J. Petracca
Manging editor: Steve Holtje
Creative director: Nick Ericson
MPLS editor: Lisa Hoey
Junior art director: Cindy Campo
London correspondent: Maura Sutton
Proof reader: Fred Schwarz
Contributing writers: Walter Faber, Kim Green, Leesa Khalia, K$, Susan Leff, Tracy McMillan, Marie Elsie St. Léger, Brooke Wentz
Publisher: Paisley Park Enterprises
Published: April 1995 (circa)
Size: 52 pages
Dimensions: 277 x 215 mm

The third issue of the *NPG Magazine* focused even less on Princely matters than issue number 2, offering interviews with Dionne Ferris, Bob Belden, Mary J. Blige, Gang Starr, and Me'shell NdegéOcello. The only Prince associates that were interviewed were Michael Bland and Paisley Park seamstress LeAnne Doescher. The photo feature included some photos from the 1995 American Music Awards. There were also a couple of reports from "The Ultimate Experience" tour of Europe.

***NPG Magazine* [Issue 4/Fall '95]**
Publisher and editor: Mark J. Petracca
Associate publisher: Kieran Finnerty
Manging editor: Steve Holtje
Creative director: Simeon Rose
Junior art director: Lisa Ellis
MPLS correspondent: Therese Stoulil
London correspondent: Maura Sutton
Proof reader: John Carter
Contributing writers: Walter Faber, Kim Green, Leesa Khalia, K$, Tracy McMillan, Marie Elsie St. Léger, Donovan Roche, Raven Worrell
Publisher: Paisley Park Enterprises
Published: December 1995 (circa)
Size: 52 pages
Dimensions: 277 x 215 mm

The fourth issue continued the path of the previous two issues by featuring less interviews with Prince associates than with figures that had little to do with Prince. Interviewed were Charles & Eddie, Naughty By Nature, M People, and interviewer/comedian Bill Billamy. The only Prince-related interviews were with Mayte, Sonny Thompson, and Tommy Barbarella. There were no photo features and very little in terms of Prince news. Clearly, the magazine was becoming less and less interesting to Prince die-hards.

The fourth issue of the *NPG Magazine* became the last. Man fans had subscribed for more issues, but their payments were not reimbursed, which caused uproar in the fan community. Although the *NPG Magazine* was more professional than *Controversy*, it wasn't nearly as loved and the poor handling of the folding of the magazine left a very bitter aftertaste.

Comic books

Prince: Alter Ego
Writer: Dwayne McDuffie
Penciller: Denys Cowan
Inker: Kent Williams
Letterer: Robert Lappan
Colorist: Noelle Giddings
Cover illustrator: Brian Bolland
Publisher: Piranha Music (copyright Paisley Park Enterprise)
Publication date: 29 October 1991
Size: 32 pages
Dimensions: 168 x 258 mm
Note: Also published in the Dutch language, bySemic Junirpress, The Netherlands

After the 1989 *Batman* album, and having had much to do with comic book characters for a while, Prince decided he wanted to become a comic book hero himself. Prince was still on good terms with Warner Bros. and they were inclined to indulge him. DC Comics, owned by Time Warner, was approached and it was decided that the ideal outlet for the project was through the experimental DC imprint Piranha Press. Prince approved all members of the creative team behind it and suggested certain ideas for the book.

The book shares many of the traits of the *Graffiti Bridge* movie. Prince is returning home to Minneapolis after a tour. Something is wrong, however, as the streets are growing increasingly hostile with violence, riots, and gang banging. Prince soon discovers that what is wrong is the music or more specifically, Gemini's music. "Twin cities, twin men. Dark has the light, yin has its yang and Batman has his Joker. But this is no joke. Gemini is alive... and he's rocking the house."

Gemini is Prince's childhood friend, resembling Prince's real-life friend André Anderson, later André Cymone, who was led astray. In the good old days, Prince and Gemini used to jam together with their band, The New Power Generation, until Prince realised that Gemini's music, while "brilliant" was, in fact, harmful. His music unleashed primal urges such as rage, often affecting people negatively. This rivalry, albeit more serious, is paralleled by the struggle between The Kid and Morris Day in *Graffiti Bridge*.

The love interest is clearly copied from *Graffiti Bridge*. In the book, Prince meets the inspirational Muse while writing under a stone bridge in the park. Like in the movie, the girl is torn between the two antagonists. Prince is her true love, but Gemini's hypnotic music makes her betray her lover. Forgiving her, Prince saves her from an outlandish death trap worthy of a Batman villain. In fact, at one point, Gemini even taunts Prince by saying, "You really do think you're Batman, don't you?" Muse finally pays her dues by saving Prince from an electrified guitar. Her apparent sacrifice is not in vain, however, as Prince starts duelling musically with Gemini, once again paralleling the struggle between The Kid and Morris Day. Prince's music finally frees The NPG from evil's thrall. "That's what music should do, Gemini," Prince retorts. "Make you dance. Move you closer to the rhythms of sex, love, even God."

Down, but not out, Gemini starts riffing aggressively, incurring the wrath of the audience. Having survived and taking the cue from Prince, Muse tries to stop the mob from killing Gemini, "You can't defeat evil by becoming it." Her words

are accentuated by a single chord from Prince's guitar, which soothes the crowd's temper. Prince doesn't punish Gemini, he simply lets him walk away. He cautions the crowd, "The only power he has is what we give him." Gemini is thereby reduced to a metaphor for the evil that lurks in every man's soul, the Devil, Spooky Electric. The book closes with Prince doing what he does best, playing.

Prince and The New Power Generation: Three Chains Of Gold
Writer: Dwayne McDuffie
Artists: David Williams (pages 1-22), Steve Carr and Deryl Skelton (pages 23-48)
Ink artist: Josef Rubinstein
Letterer: Robert Lappan
Colorist: Danny Vozzo
Cover artist: Steve Park
Publisher: Piranha Music (copyright Paisley Park Enterprises)
Publication date: 28 April 1994
Size: 48 pages
Dimensions: 165 x 258 mm
ISBN: 1-56389-157-3

Obviously pleased with the end results of *Prince: Alter Ego*, Prince sanctioned a second comic book. This time he requested an adventure more in the vein of the Indiana Jones movies. The artist, Dwayne McDuffie, was given the lyrics to the ☥ album, but no music. As a direct result, the lyrics of two songs, "My Name Is Prince" and "The Max," appear in the finished book. The comic book has much in common with the film *3 Chains O' Gold*, but this time influences ran in both directions. "Some of my ideas and the ideas of the penciller were later incorporated into the videos from that album," says McDuffie. "I thought that quite cool."

Prince and The New Power Generation are on tour in the Middle East, where Prince meets and becomes attracted to princess Mayte of Erech. Her uncle, Tammuz, usurps the throne by killing his own brother the emir and by imprisoning Mayte. But in order to rule, Tammuz must possess the three chains of gold, originally worn by Erech's first king, the mythological warrior Gilgamesh. Foreseeing this, Mayte handed over one of the chains to Prince for safekeeping. Thanks to the obnoxious TV reporter Vanessa Bartholomew, Tammuz spots the "trumpet" chain around Prince's neck and sends assassins to Minneapolis in order to retrieve it. But to no avail, as things turn out; Prince beats them up while wisecracking, "Tell your friends. I'm Batman" (which happen to be the opening lines on the *Batman* soundtrack, somewhat rephrased).

Meanwhile, Mayte escapes with the help of her bodyguard Raj, and makes her way to Paisley Park. Prince agrees to help her reclaim her throne, and the two consummate their love. The next day, The NPG charter a plane and leave for Erech, but are betrayed by the naïve Vanessa Bartholomew, who alerts Tammuz to their arrival in her eagerness to get an exclusive on what she assumes is a secret tour. With government forces in pursuit, The NPG open up their instrument cases, revealing guns with which they hold the enemy off while Prince and Mayte locate the tomb of Gilgamesh to find the third chain of gold. The tomb is filled with traps right out of *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, crowned by the arrival of Tammuz.

Threatening to kill the lovers, Tammuz demands that Prince hands over his chain of gold. Luckily, Prince had earlier given the chain to Raj. Around Prince's neck Tammuz finds his old love symbol instead. As Tammuz rips the last chain of gold from Gilamesh's skeleton, a laser beam is fired, bounces off the love symbol and kills Tammuz.

Mayte is now the sole heir to the throne and proposes to Prince, who turns her down. Having proved himself worthy, she also wants him to keep the chains and the kingdom. "Never refuse a gift from a princess," she says. Prince, however, declines by hanging the three chains of gold around her neck, "Or, Your Highness, the gift of a Prince." For the first time, we see the three chains together, forming the now so familiar ☥ symbol.

***10,000 – The Beautiful Experience* [Issue #1]**
Editor: "?"
Art director: J.C. Munson
Production manager: Charles Hermes
Photographers: Scott Erik and Nicole Nodland
Publisher: Paisley Park Enterprises
Publication date: February 1994
Size: 68 pages (plus a fold-out poster)
Dimensions: 242 x 328 mm

This is a fashion-type magazine produced with Prince's active support. It was tied in with Prince's other current activities at the time, focusing on the theme of "beauty." Like similar-styled magazines, it doesn't go deeper into any subject, focusing instead on brief texts and photographic contents.

The magazine was first made available during the NBA Weekend Party at Paisley Park, February 11th 1994 (despite the contents page saying "March 1993"). There were plans for retailing the magazine, but it was only sold via Prince's outlets, including the NPG store in Minneapolis.

The magazine includes two interviews, with R&B group Shai and Soap Opera star Vanessa Marcil, devoting the bulk of the pages to "fashion spreads" of male and female models. Other features include a rave review of The NPG's *Goldnigga*, jokes, maxims, definitions, mirror messages/backwards print. There are also advertisements for different Prince products and projects. Additionally, the lyric to the unreleased 1986 song "Adonis And Batsheeba" is reproduced.

Prince Presents The Sacrifice Of Victor
Photography: Terry Gydesen
Project coordinator: Karen Lee
Art direction and design: J.C. Munson and Lizz Luce
Publisher: Paisley Park Enterprises
Publication date: July 1994
Size: 52 pages
Dimensions:228 x 302 mm
Note: The book was published in both soft cover and hard cover editions

This is a photo book covering the 1993 *Act II* tour by Prince, or "♁" as he was known then after the June 7th 1993 name change. The book has 52 pages, with pictures on one side and a quote by Prince on the opposite page. The book was presented on May 25th 1994 at the Ambassador Galleries in New York, which showed the photos from the book.

The book opens with the lyrics of "The Sacrifice Of Victor" from the ♁ album. The next page states that the book contains images from "the last tour of the artist formerly known as Prince." Upon completion of the tour, "He legally changed his name to ♁." The penultimate page contains an "epilogue" that describes how Prince became ♁, reasoning, "For in the dawn, all will require no speakable name to differentiate the ineffable one that shall remain." The last page contains a profile of photographer Gydesen.

Providing rare glimpses of Prince behind the scenes, the book is an excellent photo memento of the *Act II* tour. The photographs are superb, capturing Prince onstage as well as off-stage, in the recording studio, in rehearsal, in the dressing room, on the tour bus, etc. One picture shows him running from fans (one of only two photos which depict a smiling Prince). Another shows him outside La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, which was the picture chosen for the cover of 1994's *Come* album. There are also many photos of fans at the shows.

Neo Manifesto – Audentes Fortuna Juvat
Original photography: Claude Gassian
Design/photo manipulation: Paisley Park – Jeff Munson and Charles Hermes
Publisher: Paisley Park Enterprises
Publication date: July 1994
Size: 40 pages (including covers)
Dimensions: 153 x 204 mm

This is a glossy, small-sized product, a sort of a mix of a book and a magazine with all the pages, including the front and back cover, being equally thick. Prince must have been fond of the work of Jeff (or Jeff C.) Munson, for he was involved in several record covers, the *10,000* magazine, *Prince Presents The Sacrifice Of Victor* and this book. The title of the book is in Latin, with the meaning "new manifest – luck favours the brave."

Much like Gydesen's photo book, *Neo Manifesto – Audentes Fortuna Juvat* is made up of photos from the 1993 *Act II* tour of Europe, both onstage shots and offstage pictures. Photographer Gassian is one of France's premier rock photographer. The difference between the two books is that the photos in this book have been manipulated using computer technology. Unfortunately, this is not very tastefully done. The design by Munson and Hermes is heavy-handed and amateurish, lacking artistic qualities. The use of garish colours and effects detract from the photos.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the book is the inclusion of a number of song lyrics, including lyrics to songs that were unreleased at the time (and some still are): "Color," "Crystal Ball," "And How," "Everybody Wants What They Don't Got," "Don't Talk 2 Strangers," "Empty Room," "Old Friends 4 Sale," and "God Is Alive."

Tour Programmes

Each tour programme includes information about the year of publication, the size (number of pages), and the dimension.

Purple Rain **tour**
Year of publication: 1984
Size: 28 pages
Dimensions: 330x305 mm

This was the first Prince tour book produced and is slightly disappointing due to the lack of original content. It contains some interesting photos, but many were taken straight from the movie. There are pages devoted to and quotes from each member of the Revolution, including one from Prince: "Hi, it's me. Just a note 2 say thanx for your company. U should come more often."

A discography is included, as well as a hand drawn page by Prince which includes the first verse of "Around The World In A Day" some six months before the release of the song. Oddities include a full-page photo of Big Chick, and one of Divinity, "Prince's dove friend."

Parade **tour**
Year of publication: 1986
Size: 28 pages
Dimensions: 305x305 mm

This was a first-rate production and perfectly captures the mood and style of the *Parade* era. It contains full-page portraits of Prince and the individual members of the expanded Revolution with excellent photography by Jeff Katz. Other than a discography, there isn't much more to the book. The edition sold at the European and Japanese shows was the same, but the Japanese one included a Sheila E. poster inserted in the book.

Sign O' The Times **tour**
Year of publication: 1987
Size: 28 pages
Dimensions: 305x305 mm

This was another immaculate production with the great photography of Jeff Katz. The design and layout of the booklet uses a variety of different styles without much of a consistent theme, echoing the *Sign O' The Times* album itself. Each member of Prince's new band is spotlighted, and a number of the photos are taken on the stage set for the tour.

Lovesexy **tour (Europe and North America)**
Year of publication: 1988
Size: 28 pages
Dimensions: 275x305 mm

This programme features a lengthy text composed by Prince that offers his own unusual explanation for the non-release of the *Black Album* and its replacement by *Lovesexy*. The oft-quoted text tells the story of a "boy named Camille" who tried to silence his critics by recording the *Black Album*. Camille realized he had "allowed the dark side of him to create something evil" and that these negative feelings must be replaced by "Lovesexy – the feeling you get when you fall in love, not with a girl or boy but with the heavens above."

This book also features the work of Jeff Katz, and is packed with great shots of Prince and the band. Each band member is once again featured on a page, with a quote. The last pages of the book fold out into a large spread with shots of Prince in the hallway at Paisley Park.

Lovesexy **tour (Japan)**
Year of publication: 1989
Size: 28 pages
Dimensions: 275x305 mm

The version of the *Lovesexy* tour programme sold at the 1989 Japanese shows replaced all references to "Lovesexy '88" throughout the book with "Lovesexy '89," and included slightly different tour personnel credits. An additional sheet of paper printed in Japanese was inserted in the books that listed the 1989 tour dates and a discography.

Nude **tour**
Year of publication: 1990
Size: 24 pages
Dimensions: 275x355 mm

To fit the "greatest hits" theme of the *Nude* tour, this programme offers a retrospective of Prince's career. It includes an uncredited essay that praises everything Prince has done throughout his career. Every few pages has a word printed that apparently is a description of Prince's music, or the man himself: "dark," "compelling," "electrifying," "enchanting," "enlightening," "illuminating," and "light." A version printed for the dates in Japan translates the text into Japanese.

A few interesting photos include collages of Prince's guitar collection and a variety of outfits he has worn in videos and onstage. A list of songs Prince wrote for other artists is also included, and is the first official acknowledgement that he was responsible for compositions written under the pseudonyms Jamie Starr, Joey Coco, and Alexander Nevermind.

Diamonds And Pearls **tour**
Year of publication: 1992
Size: 32 pages
Dimensions: 230x280 mm

Includes a variety of photos of Prince and the NPG, but nothing is especially unique about the book. It includes quotes from different celebrities making comments about Prince. The most interesting inclusion is a short essay by Prince that describes how creating a song is like giving birth to a child: "The voice inside tells u when there is a song 2 be born." The version sold at the opening shows in Japan is identical to the one sold throughout the rest of the tour.

Act I **tour**
Year of publication: 1993
Size: 32 pages
Dimensions: 230x280 mm

This tour book would be nice enough if not for the fact that seventeen of the pages were recycled directly from 1992's *Diamonds And Pearls* tour programme. Most of the pages that were replaced originally had photos of Rosie Gaines (who left the band in 1992). Some of the photos of the entire band are different, and more shots of Mayte are included.

Act II **tour**
Year of publication: 1993
Size: 32 pages
Dimensions: 255x255 mm

This is one of the nicest and most innovative of the programmes available. The pages are die-cut to be in the shape of the ☥ symbol on the front cover. It's filled with many nice photos from *Act I* tour performances. Each page in the programme includes a lyric to a song from the ☥ album, each translated into a different language.

If you hold your thumb on the corner of the booklet and flip the pages quickly, it creates the illusion that you're watching a film of Prince playing guitar from "The Morning Papers" video. Lastly, photos of the NPG on a heavier cardboard stock can be torn out of the booklet to make a set of "trading cards."

"The Ultimate Live Experience" tour
Year of publication: 1995
Size: 28 pages
Dimensions: 240x360 mm

This programme was designed by Steve Parke, among others, and is a brilliant production. Many of the photos of the NPG were also used in the booklet of the *Exodus* album, and the overall look of the tour book echoes the design of the album. The middle pages fold out to reveal a large photo of the "Endorphinmachine" stage set that was used on the tour.

The programme also includes Jim Walsh's essay about Prince's "rebirth" and name change that was later reprinted in the booklet to *The Gold Experience* album. An altered version of this programme was sold at the Japanese concerts in January 1996. Walsh's essay was translated into Japanese, and another page was replaced with a list of the Japanese tour dates.

Jam Of The Year **tour**
Year of publication: 1997
Size: 20 pages
Dimensions: 270x355 mm

Designed and photographed by Steve Parke, this programme includes mostly full-page photos of Prince, with minimal focus on the band. The first page opens with the words "this is the joint I've been waitin' 4 all night" and the last page ends with simply "listen…"

Although billed as a *Jam Of The Year* tour book by the 1-800-NEW-FUNK web site, it was not available for sale on the tour, and the *Emancipation* lyric book was sold in its place. It was sold at the 1998 *Newpower Soul* shows and through the 1-800-NEW-FUNK phone line and web site.

One Nite Alone… **tour**
Year of publication: 2002
Size: 36 pages
Dimensions: 215x215 mm

The programme for Prince's 2002 tour was photographed and designed by a variety of artists, including Sam Jennings of the NPG Music Club. The book goes to great lengths to represent several of Prince's agendas by quoting bible scriptures and definitions of words that represent some aspect of Prince, his band, or his philosophies. The programme contains several shots of a conservatively dressed Prince and his band, and presents a fine portrait of a mature artist.

2003 tour
Year of publication: 2003
Size: 32 pages
Dimensions: 215x215 mm

The tour book for the 2003 tour (planned to continued in 2004) contains pictures of Prince and his band members. NPG member Chance Howard is strangely missing from the band pictures and is only featured as "special guest," as are Maceo Parker, Greg Boyer, and Candy Dulfer. The bulk of the pictures seem to be taken with the occasion of the Hong Kong performance in mind since they feature Prince and the band in Oriental garb. The book also contains a spread to promote the NPG Music Club, listing products available through the website, including the *Chocolate Invasion* seven-CD-set.

This bibliography includes only books that are exclusively about Prince (with possible mentions of his associates). Thus, excluded are books that concern other artists or subjects, featuring sections or chapters about Prince. The bibliography does not cover tour programmes, sheet music publications or other publications endorsed by Prince. All books listed here were published without his active input or involvement. The books are listed in (roughly) chronological order. All books are in the English language unless indicated.

Prince – Inside The Purple Reign
Author: Jon Bream
Publisher: Collier Books, US
Year of publication: 1984
Size: 112 pages
Dimensions: 210x275 mm
ISBN: 0020604106

This first ever book on Prince to be published, Jon Bream's *Inside The Purple Reign* is one of the most personal books about Prince, detailing his childhood, school years and early struggles in the music world. The bulk of Bream's research was done in preparation for a series called "Our Royal Rocker" in the *Minneapolis Star And Tribune*. Bream talked with many people who have worked with Prince and people who knew him. The author doesn't analyse Prince's music and the book doesn't really trace Prince's career. Obviously, Bream is more interested in attempting to describe the private person behind the public myth. Apparently, Prince felt this book was so personal that he purchased the publishing rights, thus preventing it from ever being re-released. Consequently, the book is rather hard to find these days, although Ebay has made it far more available than previously. The book appeared as a "book club edition" (number 5306) and in a translated edition in Japan in 1985.

Prince – Rock's Purple Reign
Author: Jon Bream
Publisher: Collin Special Release (MacMillan Publishing Company), US
Year of publication: 1984
Size: 52 pages
Dimensions: 210x275 mm
ISBN: 0020604009

This is an abbreviated version of *Inside The Purple Reign*. It contains mostly pictures.

Prince
Author: Steven Ivory
Publisher: Perigee Books/Putnam Publishing Group, US
Year of publication: 1984
Size: 176 pages
Dimensions: 105x175 mm
ISBN: 0399511415

Bream's book was quickly followed by this pocket-sized book, which was written by the main man behind the music publication *Black Beat*. While Ivory talked to some associates, his account is somewhat shallow and lacks insight. Ivory appears to be more interested in piquet details and anecdotes than a serious investigation into Prince's work. Like so many other American books, he is seemingly obsessed with discovering "the man behind the image." The book contains a brief discography with commentary on the six albums Prince had released at the time. Also published in France (both hardback and paperback) with some different pictures, and in the UK and Canada.

Prince
Author: Olmeca (Sid Green)
Publisher: Proteus Books, US
Year of publication: 1984
Size: 32 pages
Dimensions: 195x270 mm
ISBN: 0862762782

This is a thin book covering Prince's career up until *Purple Rain*. It has some nice pictures, but is otherwise disappointing. It should be noted that while Olmeca is listed as the writer on the cover, the book is listed in some databases as being written by one Sid Green.

The Year Of The Prince
Author: No author is credited
Publisher: Sphere Books, UK
Year of publication: 1984
Size: 64 pages
Dimensions: 210x280 mm
ISBN: 0722141025

Despite its *Controversy* cover picture, this book was clearly published to quickly cash in on the *Purple Rain* phenomena. The book's subtitle, "A giant collection of facts, photos and interviews," is a slight exaggeration as there isn't anything "giant" about the book. The content is comprised of newspaper articles and two *Right On!* interviews (of limited interest). It includes a few nice pictures. Also published in the US. No author is credited, but Mary J. Edrei is listed as editor and Cynthia Horner, Frank Schwartz, and Martin Keller are credited for contributions.

The Year Of The Prince
Author: No author is credited
Publisher: Sharon Starbooks/New American Library, US
Year of publication: 1984
Size: 64 pages
Dimensions: 210x280mm
ISBN: 0451821084

This is the US version of the book. It is identical to its UK counterpart.

The Anabas Look Book Series: Prince – An Independent Story In Words And Pictures
Authors: Roger St. Pierre and Bob Kilbourn
Publisher: Anabas Publishing, UK
Year of publication: 1984
Size: 28 pages
Dimensions: 300x300 mm
ISBN: 1850990077

As the title indicates, this is more or less a pictorial book,

with a brief accompanying text. It also contains a discography. Most of the pictures have been previously published in other books and magazines.

Prince – Inside The Purple Reign
Author: Jon Bream
Translated by: Pumpkin Editors
Publisher: CBS/SONY Publishing Inc.
Year of publication: 1985
Size: 112 pages
Dimensions: 210x280 mm
ISBN: 4789701794
Japanese language version of *Inside The Purple Reign.*

Prince – In His Own Words
Author: No author is credited
Publisher: Omnibus Press, UK and Cherry Lane, US
Year of publication: 1985
Size: 36 pages + fold out poster
Dimensions: 230x295 mm
ISBN: 0711905991 (UK)
ISBN: 0895242524 (US)
This book is made up of quotes culled from some of the most well-known (early) interviews Prince gave in the early part of his career, printed over full-page colour pictures. Most serious fans and collectors already have the interviews, which means that this book is of fairly limited interest. The book comes with a fold out poster. It was jointly published by Omnibus Press (UK) and Cherry Lane (US). With worldwide distribution, it probably sold massively, cashing in on Prince's *Purple Rain*-era success.

Prince
Author: Steven Ivory
Publisher: Bantam Books, UK
Year of publication: 1985
Size: 176 pages
Dimensions: 105x175 mm
ISBN: 055317164X
UK Edition of this book, published in March 1985

Prince
Author: Steven Ivory
Translated by: Sacha Rheims
Publisher: Diffusion exclusive: Quebec Livres, Canada
Year of publication: 1985
Size: 160 pages
Dimensions: 150x230mm
ISBN: 292067014X
French language paperback edition for the Canadian market.

Prince
Author: Steven Ivory
Translated by: Sacha Rheims
Publisher: Carrere Distribution – Michel Lafon, France
Year of publication: 1985
Size: 160 pages
Dimensions: 150x230 mm
ISBN: 2868040438
French language edition of this book. Comes in both hardcover and paperback editions, both in the same size and with the same ISBN. It is slightly revised from the Canadian edition.

Prince
Author: D.L. Mabery
Publisher: Sphere Books, UK
Year of publication: 1985
Size: 48 pages
Dimensions: 200x230 mm
ISBN: 0822516039
The content of this biography seems to be written for a young audience. It does not shed a new light on anything regarding Prince although it does contain a few nice pictures.

He Reigns Supreme
Author: Gordon Matthews
Publisher: Wanderer Books/Julian Messner, US
Year of publication: 1985
Size: 62 pages
Dimensions: 135x210 mm
ISBN: 0671554808
This small-sized hardcover book doesn't contain anything really unique. It tells the story up until *Purple Rain,* but doesn't offer many interesting insights, except for a recollection by songwriter Chris Butler, who remembers meeting Prince when he was doing a test recording for Warner Bros. in 1977.

He Reigns Supreme
Author: Gordon Matthews
Publisher: Wanderer Books. Published by Simon and Schuster, Inc, US
Year of publication: 1985
Size: 62 pages
Dimensions: 135x210mm
ISBN: 0671554778
American paperback edition of this book.

Prince – His Story In Words And Pictures
Authors: Mark Rowland and Margy Rochlin
Publisher: Lorevan Publishing, US
Year of publication: 1985
Size: 174 pages
Dimensions: 105x175mm
ISBN: 093177327X
While hardly indispensable, this is not the worst of books to have been published after the success of *Purple Rain.* The authors seem to have talked to some figures of interest and the books does contain a few rarely seen photographs.

Everything You Want To Know About... Prince
Author: Jim Feldman
Publisher: Ballantine Books, US
Year of publication: 1985
Size: 150 pages
Dimensions: 105x175 mm
ISBN: 0345323254
This pocket book is actually one of the better US books that followed after *Purple Rain.* Prince's career up until the

Purple Rain tour is traced in great detail, although the analysis leaves something to be desired. The minimal pictorial content might be regarded as a weakness by some. On the other hand, the discography is quite good, covering releases by Prince as well as those by his protégés.

Prince
Author: François Couhault
Publisher: Marabout
Year of publication: 1985
Sizes: 160
Dimensions: 12 x 18 cm
Binding: paperback
ISBN: 2501006593

Little known French language book.

Prince
Author: No author is credited
Publisher: No publisher is listed
Year of publication: 1987
Size: 64 pages
Dimensions: 210x300mm
ISBN: lacking

This scrapbook from the UK contains a collection of newspaper and magazine clippings from 1981 to 1985. Most of the clippings are from the UK music press, *Sounds*, *New Musical Express*, and *Melody Maker*. It also includes an interesting 1981 article from *NY Rocker*. The clippings cover Sheila E., Vanity 6, and Apollonia 6 besides Prince. It is definitely a worthwhile publication since it is a fairly complete collection of UK clippings until 1985. A similar book covering the years 1986 to 1992 or so, when Prince's reached peak popularity in Europe, would be very interesting. In fact, a book dealing with the years 1986 to 1988 was announced but never saw the light of day. The fact that the book lacks author, publisher credits or ISBN probably has a great deal to do with the "bootleg" nature of the contents. There would likely there been copyright issues granting permission to use the clippings.

Prince
Author: Michael Morgan
Publisher: Turman Publishing, US
Year of publication: 1987
Size: 76 pages
Dimensions: 110x175 mm
ISBN: 0898722039

This is a small, pocket-sized book describing Prince's career up until the *Purple Rain* tour. It contains nothing new or interesting, though. Strangely enough, the author is given as Michael Morgan on opening page of the book (page 1), but Dennis P. Eichhorn is credited as "author" on the next page (page 2).

Imp Of The Perverse
Author: Barney Hoskyns
Publisher: Virgin, UK
Year of publication: 1988
Size: 120 pages
Dimensions: 165x210 mm
ISBN: 0863692540

This was one of the best books on Prince when it was published in 1988. It is an excellent study of Prince's career up until *Lovesexy*. The lion's share of the story is based on articles, but Hoskyns is knowledgeable and provides some interesting viewpoints and worthwhile cross-references to other artists. However, the pictures in this book are nothing to write home about. The book contains a UK discography. Along with *A Pop Life*, this is probably among the best-selling Prince books of all time, as it has been readily available for many years.

Un Funk Venu D'Ailleurs
Author: Phillipe Blanchet
Publisher: Rock & Folk/Albin Michet, France
Year of publication: 1988
Size: 122 pages
Dimensions: 205x275mm
ISBN: 2226034382

The first French Prince book is quite interesting as it traces Prince's career from a French perspective. However, our limited French abilities preclude us from a more in-depth analysis of the contents. Perhaps some of our French readers out there, who may have the book, could help us with a review for future updates of this bibliography?

Prince Roger Nelson: De Biografie
Authors: Alfred Bos and Tom Engelshoven
Publisher: Uitgeverij Loeb/Luitingh, The Netherlands
Year of publication: 1988
Size: 192 pages
Dimensions: 150x230 mm
ISBN: 906213825X

Prince's popularity in Europe grew fast in the late '80s and the majority of books since then have been European publications. This book (in the Dutch language) is well researched and was one of the first books to discuss Prince's outtakes. Prince's story is told and the songs on his albums (up to and including *Lovesexy*) are analysed. It includes a Dutch discography. Three printings of the book exist. The second one (also from 1988) was slightly updated to include a discussion of the *Lovesexy* shows in Holland. The third print run appeared in 1989 and is identical to the second.

Prince: Tutti I Testi Con Traduzione A Fronte
Author: Paolo Prato
Publisher: Arcana Editrice, Italy
Year of publication: 1988
Size: 278 pages
Dimensions: 125x210 mm
ISBN: 8885859070

This is a collection of lyrics, from *For You* to *Lovesexy*, both in Italian and English. It also includes a brief history (Italian language).

A Pop Life
Author: Dave Hill
Publisher: Faber and Faber, UK
Year of publication: 1989
Size: 192 pages
Dimensions: 150x230 mm
ISBN: 0571150616

Probably the best-selling Prince book of all time, *A Pop Life* (or *Prince – A Pop Life*) is a well-researched and highly interesting study of Prince's career. Hill talked to many Prince associates for the book, including Dez Dickerson, Pepé Willie, Owen Husney, David Rivkin, and Brown Mark. Prince's career is covered in great detail and Hill's writing is excellent and his analysis often sharp. The early part of Prince's career, in particular, is thoroughly investigated. The only drawbacks are a lack of stringency and chronological narrative. There is also a tendency at times to rely on only one or a few interviewees for assessments of a particular situation or conflict. The book includes the most extensive discography published at the time. The book has been published in no less than four countries besides the original UK edition: US (1989), Germany (1989), Italy (1990) and Japan (1990).

A Pop Life
Author: Dave Hill
Publisher: Harmony Books, US
Year of publication: 1989
Size: 242 pages
Dimensions: 155x235 mm
ISBN: 0517572826

US edition of the Dave Hill book. Instead of the 1986 live picture on the cover of the original edition, it has a two-tone silkscreen image in red and yellow from a 1981 concert.

A Pop Life
Author: Dave Hill
Translated by: Uschi Gnade
Publisher: Droemer Knaur, Germany
Year of publication: 1989
Size: 312 pages
Dimensions: 140x215 mm
ISBN: 3426040360

German language edition. The cover uses the image of the *Purple Rain* album, albeit it is mirrored.

Prince – Vom Nobody Zum Pop Prinzen
Author: Roland Mischke
Publisher: Bastei Lubbe, Germany
Year of publication: 1989
Size: 208 pages
Dimensions: 115x180 mm
ISBN: 3404611578

The first German Prince biography was published in 1989. The book contains a "passport" with details on Prince's alleged favourite food and drinks. There is also a page with quotes about Prince from amongst others Keith Richards and Udo Lindenberg.

Prince
Author: Andrés Rodríguez
Publisher: Rock Pop Cátedra, Spain
Year of publication: 1989
Size: 222 pages
Dimensions: 110x180 mm
ISBN: 843760804X

After Prince books in English, Dutch, French, German, and Italian came this book, which combines Prince's story, told in Spanish, with a selection of song lyrics. The author previously wrote a similar-styled book on Tina Turner. The book includes a fairly extensive discography as well as a film and videography. The discography covers US, UK, and Spanish releases. The book was updated twice, in 1992 and 1995.

Prince: A Documentary
Author: Per Nilsen
Publisher: Omnibus Press, UK
Year of publication: 1990
Size: 144 pages
Dimensions: 210x280 mm
ISBN: 0711918163

This was one of the most thorough and detailed books on Prince when it was published in the spring of 1990 (coinciding with the *Nude* tour). *UPTOWN's* Per Nilsen worked on the book since 1986, assembling clippings and information. A 1989 trip to Minneapolis, and not least their Public Library, proved crucial in transforming the ideas into a concrete book. Originally planned to be titled *A Chronology*, the book was the first to organize concerts, record releases, etc. into a strict chronological order. It was also the first book to discuss at any length all the unreleased songs and records. The book became known as the "Prince bible" in the Prince community.

Interestingly, the book exists in two slightly different impressions. Omnibus ordered a re-print of the book shortly after it was published and some minor changes were made to the second print-run (which has the same ISBN number). An example is page 36, which originally included a full-page picture but this was replaced by a text page, with an Allen Beaulieu promo card, in the second print-run. The first impression can also be identified by the slightly thicker and glossier paper. The book was published in Holland in the spring of 1990 and in Japan in 1991. An updated, thoroughly revised second edition was published in 1993.

Popkroniek: Prince
Author: Per Nilsen
Translated by: Wim Sanders
Publisher: Loeb Uitgevers, The Netherlands
Year of publication: 1990
Size: 128 pages
Dimensions: 210x280 mm
ISBN: 9037901565

This is the Dutch-language version of *A Documentary*. Except for a new cover and the removal of the 16 pages of colour pictures included in the original UK release, the Dutch version is almost identical to the original Omnibus Press book.

Una Vita Pop
Author: Dave Hill
Translated by: Daniela Arduin
Publisher: Sperling & Kupfer Editori, Italy
Year of publication: 1990
Size: 350 pages
Dimensions: 140x205 mm
ISBN: 8820010348

Italian language version of *A Pop Life*. It comes in a white cover with a diagonal grey stripe and a 1986 live picture of Prince.

A Pop Life
Author: Dave Hill
Translated by: Noneyama Shizuka, Numasaki Atsuko
Publisher: CBS/ SONY Publishing Inc, Japan
Year of publication: 1990
Size: 324 pages
Dimensions: 150x210 mm
ISBN: 4789705064

Published in February 1990, this is a Japanese language version of *A Pop Life*. Like the original UK version, the cover uses a live image from 1986, but a different one, of Prince lying on stage, in sepia toned brown and yellow.

Prince
Author: *Controversy* magazine
Publisher: Controversy, UK
Year of publication: 1990
Size: 64 pages
Dimensions: 210x 295 mm
ISBN: 1873003005

This book was assembled by the *Controversy* fan magazine (i.e. Eileen Murton). Tied in with the *Nude* tour, the book is quite disappointing, however. It does contain some nice pictures, many of them in colour, but the text is a disgrace. In typical *Controversy* fashion, everything Prince has done is praised beyond belief.

Prince (Video Rock Salvat)
Author: Silvia Nieto
Publisher: Salvat Editores, Spain
Year of publication: 1990
Size: 96 pages
Dimensions: 129x184 mm
ISBN: 8434552906

A book on Prince from the "Video Rock Salvat" series, containing similar books on a number of '80s pop and rock stars. The first half of this Spanish-language book is a biography. The second half is comprised of lyrics to a selection of songs, all of them in both Spanish and English. The book also includes a brief discography, filmography and bibliography.

Prince: Dai-Hyakka (Big Encyclopedia)
Author: Per Nilsen
Translated by: Nobeyama Shizuka
Publisher: Sony Magazines, Japan
Year of publication: 1991
Size: 240 pages
Dimensions: 150x210 mm
ISBN: 4789706893

Japanese edition of *A Documentary*, in Japanese language. The book is updated to cover 1990 and the first half of 1991.

Prince
Author: Jürgen Seibold
Publisher: Moewig, Germany
Year of publication: 1991
Size: 80 pages
Dimensions: 230x290 mm
ISBN: 3811830783

Considering the fact the author has written a whole series of biographies on anyone from Phil Collins to Depeche Mode, this is not a poor attempt at a Prince biography. However, it is clear that the author has relied heavily on *A Documentary* for factual information. It contains many good pictures, though. The book is written in the German language and was also published in Austria in an identical version.

Prince
Author: Jürgen Seibold
Publisher: Zsolnay, Austria
Year of publication: 1991
Size: 80 pages
Dimensions: 230x290 mm
ISBN: 3552050272

This is the first book on Prince published in Austria. It is identical to its German counterpart.

Prince Canciones
Author: not listed
Publisher: Espiral/Editorial Fundamentos, Spain
Year of publication: 1991
Size: 176 pages
Dimensions: 130x210 mm
ISBN: 8424506006

A pocket book, which contains the lyrics to Prince's songs from his albums released between 1978 and 1990 (*For You* to *Graffiti Bridge*). All the lyrics are in English (left page) and Spanish (right page). The lyric translations are attributed to Miguel Comamala. A Second edition was published in 1995.

Prince
Author: Andrés Rodríguez
Publisher: Rock Pop Cátedra, Spain
Year of publication: 1992
Size: 252 pages
Dimensions: 110x180 mm
ISBN: 843760804X

Second edition of the Spanish book that was originally published in 1989. It has the same ISBN number as the previous edition. The book is updated with 30 pages and contains additional information on Prince's career since 1989.

The First Illustrated Biography
Author: John W. Duffy
Publisher: Omnibus Press, UK
Year of publication: 1992
Size: 112 pages
Dimensions: 225x290mm
ISBN: 0711930791

This book lifts most of its information from previously published books, most notably *A Documentary*. The author's knowledge of his subject appears to be limited and his research is minimal. On the plus side, the book does contain many excellent colour photos. The book was published in no less than four different language versions: Holland (1992), Spain (1993), The Czech Republic (1993) and Japan (1994).

Prince, De Biografie
Author: John W. Duffy
Translated by: Rob Pijpers
Publisher: BZZTôH / Free Record Shop, The Netherlands
Year of publication: 1992
Size: 112 pages
Dimensions: 225x290mm
ISBN: 9062918077

Dutch language version of *The First Illustrated Biography* By John Duffy. Very similar to its English counterpart.

Prince: Wielki Ksiaze Tandety
Author: Tom B. Back
Publisher: Athos, Poland
Year of publication: 1992
Size: 32 pages
Dimensions: 120x160 mm
ISBN: Details missing

This is Prince's story told in Polish language. The miniature-sized book ends with the lyrics of "Gett Off" in English and Polish.

Prince – Special
Author: Michael Heatley
Publisher: Grandreams, UK
Year of publication: 1993
Size: 46 pages
Dimensions: 195 x 285 mm
ISBN: 1858300606

This is an instantly forgettable book in a series of "annuals" produced on popular artists. It is rather peculiar that an edition on Prince was produced in 1993 and not much earlier when his popularity was obviously bigger. The thin book is very poor on textual content and is mainly made up of pictures.

Prince: A Documentary
Author: Per Nilsen
Publisher: Omnibus Press, UK
Year of publication: 1993
Size: 160 pages
Dimensions: 210x280 mm
ISBN: 0711931798

The second edition of the book updates the chronology to cover the 1990-late 1992 period. Many corrections and revisions were also made to the pre-1990 years, making the book far more accurate than the first edition. It also adds a great deal of appendix information.

Prince, Su Primera Biografia Ilustrada
Author John W. Duffy
Translated by: José Angel Pastor Giménez
Publisher: Editorial La Máscara, Spain
Year of publication: 1993
Size: 112 pages
Dimensions: 210x280mm
ISBN: 8479402806

Spanish language version of *The First Illustrated Biography* By John Duffy. Almost identical to its English counterpart.

Prince, Prvá Ilustrovaná Biografia
Author: John W. Duffy
Translated by: Rudolf Lesnák
Published by: Champagne Avantgarde, Czecho-Slovakia
Year of publication: 1993
Size: 112 pages
Dimensions: 240x300mm
ISBN: 8071501123

Czecho-Slovakian language version of *The First Illustrated Biography* By John Duffy. This one comes in hardcover, rather than the softcover of all other versions. There may have been two different editions (with different ISBN numbers), possibly a softcover second edition as is customary.

Prince 1958–1994
Author: John W. Duffy
Translated by: Watase Hitomi
Published by: Takara Jima Sha /Treasure Island Corporation, Japan
Year of publication: 1994
Size: 200 pages
Dimensions: 150x210 mm
ISBN: 4796608591

Japanese language version of *The First Illustrated Biography* by John Duffy released in October 1994. The book is not easily recognizable as a version of the Duffy book, however, since both the title and cover are completely different.

Prince
Author: Jon Ewing
Publisher: CD Books/Carlton Books, UK
Year of publication: 1994
Size: 120 pages
Dimensions: 125x140 mm
ISBN: 1857978994

This is a CD-sized biography of Prince. It contains many excellent pictures, most of them in colour. It also includes a discography up to and including *The Hits/The B-Sides*. Also published in Germany (in German language).

Prince
Author: Jon Ewing
Translated by: Astrid Hartwig
Publisher: CD Books/PabelMoewig KG, Germany
Year of publication: 1994
Size: 120 pages
Dimensions: 125x140 mm
ISBN: 3811839861

The German language version of the Jon Ewing book. Apart from a different cover image, the German version remains close to the original.

Prince
Author: Francisco Vega Lahiguera
Publisher: Royal Books, S.L., Spain
Year of publication: 1994
Size: 44 pages
Dimensions: 230x290 mm
ISBN: 8481350559

Spanish language book. This is a book which we have not been able to locate. Please contact us with information.

☥ Antes Conocido Como Prince
Author: Andrés Rodríguez
Publisher: Rock Pop Cátedra, Spain
Year of publication: 1995
Size: 216 pages
Dimensions: 110x180 mm
ISBN: 843760804X

This is the third edition of the book (originally titled *Prince*). It has the same ISBN number as the previous editions. The first two editions contain lyrics, but they are omitted from this edition. Instead it is updated with a couple of chapters with information about what happened after 1992, including a description of the interview that appeared in Spanish newspaper *El Pais* in 1993 The discography is not updated from previous editions, however, ending in 1989.

Prince Canciones
Author: Miguel Comamala
Publisher: Espiral/Editorial Fundamentos, Spain
Year of publication: 1995
Size: 172 pages
Dimensions: 115x205 mm
ISBN: 8424506006

A second revised edition (although it says on the cover "third edition") of this book. It contains a selection of song lyrics and their Spanish translation from *For You* to *Diamonds And Pearls*.

The Complete Guide To The Music Of Prince
Author: Geoff Brown
Publisher: Omnibus Press, UK
Year of publication: 1995
Size: 136 pages
Dimensions: 125x140 mm
ISBN: 0711949794

Part of Omnibus Press' series of CD-sized "guides," this is a track-by-track study of Prince's career up to and including *Come*. It is actually an excellent book since Brown is knowledgeable about Prince's music and is able to provide many interesting descriptions and interpretations. The book was also published in Japan in 1997.

The Artist Formerly Known As Prince ☥
Author: Duncan Clarke
Publisher: Longmeadow Press, US
Year of publication: 1995
Size: 82 pages
Dimensions: 235x310 mm
ISBN: 0681103396

This is a fairly simplistic rehash of many other Prince books, describing his career without too much consideration for the facts. The only worthwhile aspects about the book are numerous first-rate colour pictures, albeit many of them are miss-captioned, e.g. identifying Miko Weaver (at a 1988 concert) as Dez Dickerson from an "early" show. Similarly, a caption about "the London show on the 1993 tour" refers to a picture of the soundcheck of a 1988 Rotterdam show. The book ends with an album and a single discography for UK and US releases. The book was also published in France.

L'artiste Qu'on Appelait Prince
Author: Duncan Clarke
Translated by: Jacques Collin
Publisher: Les Éditions Hors Coll./Presses de la Cité, France
Year of publication: 1995
Size: 80 pages
Dimensions: 235x310 mm
ISBN: 2258040558

French edition of Clarke's book, translated into French. It is otherwise identical the original.

The Artist Formerly Known As Prince
Author: Steven Rosen
Publisher: Castle Communications, UK
Year of publication: 1995
Size: 124 pages
Dimensions: 235x290 mm
ISBN: 1860740456

This is one of many books in a series called *Rock Lives – The Ultimate Story*. Books written as part of series tend to be poorly researched and the authors are rarely experts on the artists. In this instance, however, Rosen actually offers some fresh insight into Prince's work by interviewing a few Record Plant recording engineers with whom Prince worked in the early '90s. Their recollections make the book worthwhile, as the main story is a rehash of other books. The discography is fairly extensive, including a list of songs written by Prince for other artists. The book contains a nice selection of photos, many of which are in colour.

Controversy
Author: Keith Balaam
Publisher: Britannia Press Publishing, UK
Year of publication: 1995
Size: 176 pages
Dimensions: 150x230 mm
ISBN: 189978425X

This book focuses on Prince's brief career as ☥. The text is rather puzzling, though, with a review of *The Gold Experience* and a slew of quotes making up the major part. There are almost as many photo pages as there are pages of text. The photos focus on the 1993-95 years (although there are a few earlier ones as well). One of the appendices includes a list of unreleased Prince songs, but, unfortunately, it is rather erroneous and includes many titles recognized as fakes.

Great Rock Series: The Artist Formerly Known As Prince/ Zenkyoku Kaisetsu
Author: Geoff Brown
Translated by: Iwasaki Emiko
Publisher: Burrn! Corporation/Shinko Music, Japan
Year of publication: 1997
Size: 236 pages
Dimensions: 130 x 185 mm
ISBN: 4401701151

Published in February 1997, this is a Japanese language version of *The Complete Guide To The Music Of Prince* by Geoff

Brown. It comes in a different format and cover from the original. This version contains supplemental commentaries by Iwasaki Ryuichi, the Japanese supervisor for the book.

The Lyrics Of Prince Rogers Nelson/☥
Author: Claude L. McInnis Jr.
Publisher: Psychedelic Literature, US
Year of publication: 1997
Size: 112 pages
Dimensions: 160x250 mm
ISBN: 0965577503

Originally based on an 83-page thesis from 1992, this is a detailed study of Prince's lyrics, from *For You* to *The Gold Experience*. It also includes some chapters with different themes, dealing with sex in Prince's work and his different personas. Many of the lyrical interpretations are interesting, but there are also conclusions that many readers won't agree with. The back cover text gushes that McInnis' book is a "worthy to be considered an excellent and profound academic dissertation," which is an exaggeration. Still, it is a stimulating read.

Slave To The Rhythm
Author: Liz Jones
Publisher: Little, Brown & Company, UK
Year of publication: 1997
Size: 274 pages
Dimensions: 150x230 mm
ISBN: 0316640417

This book on Prince by the British *Sunday Times* journalist Liz Jones was the most detailed and well-researched since Dave Hill's *A Pop Life* eight years earlier. Jones interviewed many Prince associates, including Wendy and Lisa, which must be considered a scoop since they have steadfastly refused to speak about Prince with biographers. Jones also offered insight into the tragedy surrounding the death of Prince's child. Still, despite the excellent research foundation, Jones' writing seems rushed and she doesn't analyse much or dig too deeply. As is customary, the original hardback release was followed up within a year by a paperback edition. The book was also published in the US under the title of *Purple Reign – The Artist Formerly Known As Prince*.

Schiavo Del Ritmo, L'artista Un Tempo Noto Come Prince
Author: Liz Jones
Translated by: Stefano Focacci
Publisher: Edizioni Tarab, Italy
Year of publication: 1997
Size: 256 pages
Dimensions: 240 x 173 mm
ISBN: 88-86675-27-5
This is an Italian language version of Liz Jones' book *Slave To The Rhythm*.

Slave To The Rhythm
Author: Liz Jones
Publisher: Warner Books, UK
Year of publication: 1998
Size: 356 pages
Dimensions: 125x195 mm
ISBN: 0751523933

This is the paperback edition of Jones' book. The paperback edition is updated from the initial hardcover release to include some information on the *Crystal Ball* three-CD set.

UPTOWN Presents: Turn It Up
Author: *UPTOWN* (staff)
Publisher: *UPTOWN*, Sweden
Year of publication: 1997
Size: 80 pages
Dimensions: 210x295 mm
ISBN: 9163062097

Available from *UPTOWN* on mail order, *Turn It Up* catalogues Prince's music, both released and unreleased. It includes an A-Z list of released songs, a survey of unreleased songs circulating amongst collectors, lists/descriptions of concerts, soundchecks and rehearsals existing on audio and video tapes, as well as lists/descriptions of circulating video recordings of TV appearances, concerts, and miscellaneous unreleased footage.

Purple Reign – The Artist Formerly Known As Prince
Author: Liz Jones
Publisher: Birch Lane Productions/ Carol Publishing Group, US
Year of publication: 1998
Size: 284 pages
Dimensions: 235x165 mm
ISBN: 155972448X

This is the US hardback edition of *Slave To The Rhythm*. By the way, who came up with the idea to revise the title of the book? "Purple" reign may have worked in 1984, but it is fairly stupid in 1998 since Prince has been through numerous "colour schemes" (e.g. paisley, black/white, peach and black, and gold). Like the UK paperback version (*Slave To The Rhythm*), the book is updated to include some information on *Crystal Ball*.

Purple Reign – The Artist Formerly Known As Prince
Author: Liz Jones
Publisher: Carol Publishing Group, US
Year of publication: 1999
Size: 304 pages
Dimensions: 235x155 mm
ISBN: 0806520655

The US paperback edition of Jones' book. It was published in April 1999 and is otherwise identical to the hardback edition.

Dancemusicsexromance – Prince: The First Decade
Author: Per Nilsen
Publisher: Firefly Productions, UK
Year of publication: 1999
Size: 288 pages
Dimensions: 155x235 mm
ISBN: 0946719233

From the author of the acclaimed *A Documentary* came this in-depth study on the first decade of Prince's career. The focus is on Prince's work, primarily his recordings, but the book also provides a great deal of insight into Prince's creative personality and his relationships with people (including girlfriends). The book is based on interviews with numerous

people who worked with Prince during this period of his career, including nearly every recording engineer Prince worked with: Susan Rogers, Peggy McCreary, Don Batts, Steve Fontano, Richard McKernan, David Rivkin, Coke Johnson, Terry Christian, Bill Jackson, Gary Brandt, Bob Mockler, and Sylvia Massey. Former band members and associates interviewed included Dez Dickerson, Matt Fink, Bobby Rivkin, Taja Sevelle, Monte Moir, Jellybean Johnson, Eric Leeds, and Matt Blistan. Other important interviewees were Roy Bennett, Charles Smith, Pepé Willie, Owen Husney, Chris Moon, Craig Hubler, Karen Krattinger, and Alan Leeds (who also wrote the foreword). Unquestionably, few books can match *Dancemusicsexromance* in terms of the amount of research that went into the book. Much of the author's research for the book has been utilised in *UPTOWN*.

The appendix provides exhaustive information on Prince's recording and touring career, including a meticulously detailed sessionography, which covers all songs Prince recorded from 1975 to 1987. The only downside is perhaps that the book ends in 1987.

Guide Pratique Et Complet Sur La Musique De Prince
Author: Florence Rajon
Publisher: Prélude et Fugue, France
Year of publication: 1999
Size: 128 pages
Dimensions: 110 x 180 mm
ISBN: 2-84343-051-8

A French book with a highly mediocre content.

UPTOWN Presents: Days Of Wild
Author: Per Nilsen and *UPTOWN* (staff)
Publisher: *UPTOWN*, Sweden
Year of publication: 2000
Size: 120 pages
Dimensions: 210x295 mm
ISBN: 9163092255

UPTOWN's second mail order book, *Days Of Wild*, is essentially a revised and updated edition of *A Documentary*, chronicling Prince's activities and releases on an (almost) day-by-day basis up until December 1999. Per Nilsen initially discussed a third edition of *A Documentary* with the publisher, Omnibus Press, but it was clear that they were no longer interested in the project. Omnibus Press felt Prince had lost a large part of his UK audience and that interest in a new edition would be limited. Per felt the book was too important to "letitgo" and decided to resurrect it as *Days Of Wild*, a book published by the *UPTOWN* magazine.

The book was released with a CD-ROM, which includes the book's exhaustive appendix and the issues published during the first five years of the *UPTOWN* magazine. The book received praise but also complaints about the minimal font size used throughout in order to squeeze all information into 160 pages. The small font size was a must in order to avoid the book (and CD-ROM) exceeding a 500-gram limit, which would have meant a much higher airmail postage to most countries. The weight concern also necessitated the use of fairly thin paper. Thus, being a mail order publication meant some obvious compromises, which wouldn't have been necessary if Omnibus had continued to publish the book.

UPTOWN Presents: Turn It Up 2.0
Author: *UPTOWN* (staff)
Publisher: *UPTOWN*, Sweden
Year of publication: 2001
Size: 160 pages
Dimensions: 210x295 mm
ISBN: 9163112604

UPTOWN's third mail order book, *Turn It Up 2.0* updated and extended upon the *Turn It Up* book from 1997. An 108-page "Data Bank" covers Prince's recordings (released and unreleased songs), concerts, guest appearances, TV and radio appearances, Internet "radio shows," and press conferences. The rest of the book dealt with collectable material: unreleased songs in circulation ("Grooves And Grooves"), concert recordings on audio and video tape ("A Beautiful Night"), rehearsal recordings on audio and video tape ("Let's Work"), TV and radio appearances ("Turn Me On"), unaired/unreleased TV/video/film footage and miscellaneous video/audio recordings ("Not Meant 4 Transmission"), and books and interviews ("In A Word Or 2"). *Turn It Up 2.0* contains the most complete listing of Prince sessions and songs ever published. Around 450 unreleased songs are described and discussed.

The Lyrics Of Prince Rogers Nelson/♀
Author: Claude L. McInnis Jr.
Publisher: Atrium Books, US
Year of publication: 2001
Size: 120 pages
Dimensions: 160x250 mm
ISBN: 0965577503

This is a new edition of the book first published in 1997. The new version is with another publishing company and is updated with eight pages. Still, it carries the same ISBN number as the previous edition.

Possessed: The Rise And Fall Of Prince
Author: Alex Hahn
Publisher: Watson-Guptill Publications, US
Year of publication: 2003
Size: 288 pages
Dimensions: 150x230 mm
ISBN: 0823077489

Published as a hardcover edition in April 2003, Hahn's *Possessed: The Rise And Fall Of Prince* is one of the superior books about Prince, combining a detailed examination of Prince's work with a discussion of his career and revealing insights into his private life. The author is well-known to *UPTOWN* readers as the lawyer who represented our magazine when Prince tried to put it out of business. Per Nilsen gave Hahn access to numerous interviews conducted for *Dancemusicsexromance*, but Hahn also interviewed many additional people, including Rosie Gaines, Howard Bloom, Bob Cavallo, Anna Garcia, Jeff Gold, Bob Merlis, Robbie Paster, Sandra St. Victor, and Arnold Stiefel. Hahn also conducted additional interviews with people already interviewed for Nilsen's book.

The book cleaves Prince's life into two: the rise and the fall. The "rise" covers up to his dramatic shelving of the *Black Album* in favour of *Lovesexy* and the "fall" is everything thereafter. While this split is appropriate in many ways, the story isn't as black/white as the title suggests. Hahn is aware of this,

pointing out many highs in Prince's post-*Black Album* production, but his analysis of why Prince's career took a certain downhill slide is illuminating. Hahn's portrait of Prince isn't entirely flattering, exposing his controlling behaviour, promiscuity, and self-indulgences, which has led to protests from fans who cannot believe that someone who makes such incredible music can do such reprehensible things to people who care about him. More than anything else, this criticism stems from the tendency of many fans to put their idols on pedestals, unable to accept anything less than flattering. Still, Hahn's portrait is balanced. The AMG website labelled the book an "unholy marriage of *The National Enquirer* and *The Wall Street Journal*," which isn't completely off the mark. The only downside of the book would be some factual slips, but they are clearly due to the apparent haste with which Hahn wrote the book. These minor flaws may be corrected for future editions. It seems likely that this book will be selling well for many years.

My Time With Prince – Confessions of a Former Revolutionary
Author: Dez Dickerson
Publisher: OMNI PublishXpress
Year of publication: 2003
Size: 240 pages
Dimensions: Inches: 130 x 210 mm
ISBN: 1930575491

The first book published by someone in Prince's inner circle. Dickerson's book offers a nice look into the early years of Prince career and contains some previously unknown details. Dickerson's insight and highly entertaining style of writing make this an enjoyable read. The book also includes some never before-published photos from Dickerson's private collection. Some of the dates and facts may not be fully accurate, but Dickerson emphasises that he is not writing a documentary. The book is highly recommended.